

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 PA-02

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 105344

R 182157Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 18,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. YES, BOB. YESTERDAY YOU HAD NO INFORMATION
FOR US ON POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS BY SYRIAN FORCES OF LAST MAY'S
AGREEMENT. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL US TODAY?

A. WELL, AS I DID SAY YESTERDAY, WE DO HAVE OUR OWN
RECONAISSANCE, AS WAS AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES TO THE
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. AND JUST LET ME SAY, ON BACKGROUND,
AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, THAT ANY TIME THAT WE CONDUCT
ANY RECONAISSANCE, THE RESULTS OF THAT RECONAISSANCE ARE
CONCERNED--WHETHER IT WOULD BE WITH REGARD TO THE GOLAN
HEIGHTS OR TO THE SINAI. BUT I CANNOT GET INTO THE SUB-
STANCE OF THE FINDINGS WHENEVER WE MAY HAVE SOMETHING.

Q. WELL, WAS THIS POLICY FOLLOWED IN THIS LATEST INCIDENT?

A. I JUST WANT TO LEAVE THIS AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION. I

DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY SPECIFICS, WHEN WE MAY HAVE DONE
THIS OR NOT. BUT WHENEVER WE HAE ANYTHING, WE WILL GIVE
IT TO THE PARTIES, AND IT REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL, AND IT
ALSO IS GIVEN TO THE UN OFFICE CONCERNED.

Q. WHY DOES THAT HAVE TO BE ON BACKGROUND?

A. I WOULD RATHER HAVE IT, BECAUSE THIS INVOLVES THE
PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT. AND YOU CAN DO IT "U.S. OFFI-
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CIALS." AND I WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE IT JUST BE ON THE
RECORD.

Q. SO THAT LEAVES ON THE RECORD YOUR SAYING WE DO HAVE
OUR OWN RECONAISSANCE.

A. YES. WELL, I HAD THAT ON THE RECORD YESTERDAY, SPENCE.
THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. THAT HAS BEEN ON THE
RECORD BEFORE.

Q. BOB, DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN THIS
BACKGROUND STATEMENT OF YOURS, YOU ARE OPENING THE POSSI-
BILITY OF ANY ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT TO
RECEIVE U.S. INFORMATION MAKING CLAIMS WHICH SOMEHOW ON

THE AUTHORITY OF U.S. OFFICIALS TAKE ON A LITTLE MORE
TINGE OF CREDIBILITY THAN IF THIS STATEMENT WERE NOT IN
THIS MANNER?

A. THAT DOESN'T CONCERN ME.

Q. DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?

A. NO.

Q. BECAUSE IT IS GOING TO BE USED.

A. BECAUSE I'M MAKING THIS AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION THAT
THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DONE FROM TIME TO TIME. I AM NOT
REFERRING NECESSARILY TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION THAT WAS
RAISED YESTERDAY.

Q. WELL, IN THE AGREEMENT WASN'T THE FACT THAT THE U.S.
WOULD CONDUCT ITS OWN RECONAISSANCE MENTIONED IN THE
AGREEMENT?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT.
REGARD TO BOTH THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. AND I WOULD
JUST LIKE TO LEAVE IT THERE.

Q. BOB, DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DISPUTE THE CLAIM BY
ISRAEL THAT THERE WAS A VIOLATION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS?
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A. I DON'T WANT TO CONFIRM IT OR DENY IT. I JUST WANT TO
GO BACK, MARILYN, TO WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, THAT THERE IS
A UN MECHANISM TO HANDLE THESE MATTERS, AND WE THINK IT IS
APPROPRIATE TO LET THAT MECHANISM WORK.

Q. HAS THE UN MECHANISM FOUND A VIOLATION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE OR NOT.

Q. WOULD THEY NORMALLY INFORM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IF THEY
DID?

A. I WOULD ASSUME THAT WE WOULD KNOW.

Q. THEN ARE THEY SEIZED OF THAT QUESTION AT THE MOMENT?

A. THEY ARE SEIZED OF THAT QUESTION, YES. I BELIEVE THAT
THE DEFENSE MINISTER PERES INDICATED THAT HE HAD SEIZED
THE UN OF THE ISRAELI BELIEF THAT THERE HAD BEEN A VIOL-
ATION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. I THINK THIS WAS IN THE PAPER.
AND HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A VIOLATION IN
THE SINAI. BUT HE ALSO SAID THAT THIS VIOLATION HAD BEEN
RECTIFIED.

Q. BOB, YESTERDAY DID YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK INTO THIS? I WASN'T HERE, SO--I'M SORRY. DID YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK INTO THE ISRAELI CHARGE?

A. NO. I SAID THAT I--WE CAN GO BACK TO THE RECORD OF YESTERDAY, KEN--THAT I WOULD LOOK INTO THE QUESTION THAT IF WE HAD ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION.

Q. BUT NOW YOU ARE REFUSING TO SAY WHETHER WE HAVE ANY.

A. NOW I HAVE LOOKED INTO THIS, AND I HAVE NOW GIVEN THE RESPONSE THAT WE GIVE IT TO THE PARTIES AND TO THE UN.

Q. YOU WERE TOLD NOT TO RESPOND TO US.

A. IN OTHER WORDS, WE DO NOT MAKE PUBLIC THE RESULTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY AIRRECONAISSANCE THAT MAY BE OBTAINED.

Q. WHY NOT?

A. BECAUSE WE DO NOT DO IT. IT IS GIVEN TO THE PARTIES AND TO THE UN.

Q. WHY CAN'T IT BE GIVEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE?

A. BECAUSE THAT IS NOT PART OF THE AGREEMENT.

Q. BOB, WAS THIS POLICY FRAMED AT THE TIME OF THE DIS-
ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT? WAS IT AGREED TO BY SYRIA AND ISRAEL
AT THAT TIME? AND IF IT WASN'T THEN, PLEASE TELL ME WHEN
THE POLICY WAS DEVELOPED--YESTERDAY OR TODAY?

A. NO. THIS WAS NOT DEVELOPED YESTERDAY OR TODAY. THIS
HAS BEEN OUR POLICY.

Q. WAS IT AGREED TO BY SYRIAN AND ISRAEL, THAT AMERICAN
RECONAISSANCE BASED ON ISRAELI ALLEGATIONS WOULD NOT BE
DISCLOSED TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC?

Q. OR VICE-VERSA.

A. WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY--THAT IT WAS AGREED THAT
WE ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE THE RESULTS OF ANY OF OUR AIR
SURVEILLANCE, OUR OWN RECONAISSANCE, PUBLIC INFORMATION,
BUT THAT ANYTHING THAT WE WOULD FIND OUT THAT COULD BE
HELPFUL WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PARTIES AND WOULD BE
GIVEN TO THE APPROPRIATE UN OFFICE.

Q. THIS WAS AGREED BETWEEN US AND THE PARTIES AT THE TIME
THAT THE U.S.--

A. YOU MAY ASSUME THAT, YES.

Q. NOW, IS THERE ANY CONSTRAINT ON THE PARTIES AGAINST
RELEASING THE RESULTS OF THE U.S. AIR RECONNAISSANCE,
IF IT BEARS OUT THEIR CONTENTION? FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD
THIS AIR RECONNAISSANCE ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT BEAR OUT
WHAT THE ISRAELIS SAY, ARE THEY UNDER CONSTRAINT NOT TO
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CLAIM OUR SUPPORT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. BUT I WOULD ASSUME
THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONSTRAINT. THAT IS MY OWN
ASSUMPTION.

Q. WOULDN'T THAT BE PART OF THE AGREEMENT?

A. I WOULD ASSUME THAT. BUT I DO NOT KNOW SPECIFICALLY
WHETHER IT IS.

Q. WAS THIS DISCUSSED LAST NIGHT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY
AND THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR--THIS SUBJECT OF THE ALLEGED
VIOLATION?

A. ON THE MEETING YESTERDAY, THE SECRETARY ASKED AMBASS-
ADOR DINITZ TO COME IN AND HAVE A MEETING. THEY MET FOR
ABOUT AN HOUR-AND-A-HAWF, HOUR-AND-THREE QUARTERS, IN THE
EARLY EVENING--CAME IN AT 6:30. AND AT THIS MEETING, THEY
DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE THE VISIT
OF FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON LAST DECEMBER 9, AND THEY EX-
CHANGED VIEWS ON INFORMATION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
RECEIVED FROM ARAB CAPITALS. THE SECRETARY BRIEFED
AMBASSADOR DINITZ ON THE RECENT MEETING IN MARTINIQUE
BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

Q. WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION DID THE U.S. RECEIVE FROM ARAB
CAPITALS? IS THIS IN RESPONSE TO SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT
WERE MADE HERE BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON, WHEN HE WAS
HERE?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY MORE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF
WHAT THEY SAID, OTHER THAN WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU HERE.

Q. WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS SURVEILLANCE? DBES THAT COME
OUT OF OUR BUDGET OF THE UN?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO IT. I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW. I WOULD
NOT THINK IT WOULD COME OUT OF THE UN BUDGET.

Q. DO YOU THINK IT IS A LARGE EXTRA EXPENDITURE IN TERMS
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OF OUR SURVEILLANCE?

A. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT.

Q. BOB, ARE THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEILLANCE GIVEN TO CONGRESS?

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK IT.

Q. AND WHILE YOU ARE CHECKING IT, WOULD YOU CHECK WHETHER CONGRESS WAS TOLD THERE IS SUCH AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES, THAT THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEILLANCE WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC? APPARENTLY IT IS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT WAS NOT DISCLOSED THEN. AND THE SECRETARY'S POSITION HAS BEEN THAT ALL SECRET--ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T APPRECIATE THE WORD "SECRET"--ALL SECRET UNDERSTANDINGS ATTENDANT ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WOULD BE DISCLOSED TO CONGRESS. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THIS WAS DISCLOSED TO CONGRESS, AND IF THEY GET THE RESULTS OF THIS RECONNAISSANCE.

A. I AM SURE THAT THE SECRETARY, WHEN HE DISCUSSED BOTH THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH CONGRESS, BRIEFED CONGRESS FULLY ON THE QUESTION OF SURVEILLANCE. I MEAN

ONE CAN BE SURE OF THAT. NOW, WHETHER THE RESULTS OF THE PERIODIC SURVEILLANCE THAT IS CONDUCTED GO TO CONGRESS ON A REGULAR BASIS OR ON A PERIODIC BASIS, I DO NOT KNOW. I WILL CHECK.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US HOW OFTEN THE SURVEILLANCE IS CARRIED OUT, AND ALSO WHETHER IN THE PAST ANY SURVEILLANCE HAS SHOWN A VIOLATION ON EITHER SIDE?

A. NO, I CANNOT ANSWER YOU ON EITHER QUESTION.

Q. I BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN A VIOLATION OF THAT AGREEMENT, IF THERE REALLY WAS AN AGREEMENT, THAT THE SURVEILLANCE RESULTS WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, BECAUSE THE RESULTS OF THE U.S. SURVEILLANCE HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC BEFORE BY ONE OR OTHER OF THE PARTIES.

A. I AM UNAWARE OF IT. YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

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Q. JUST FOR THE RECORD, THERE WAS A BIG FLAP AFTER THE EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT ABOUT AN ISRAELI CHARGE OF EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS, AND THE SECRETARY HIMSELF SAID THAT ON THE BASIS OF OUR INFORMATION THERE WERE SOME MINOR VIOLATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RECTIFIED. SO HE IN A SENSE WAS MAKING PUBLIC SOME OF THE RESULTS OF THIS. SO IT WOULDN'T BE

PRECEDENT-SHATTERING FOR YOU TO SAY SOMETHING MORE ABOUT IT.

A. IF I CAN SAY ANYTHING MORE, I WILL.

Q. I HAD A QUESTION. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER GOLDA MEIR

IS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER OR OTHER STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TODAY?

Q. IT'S ON THE SCHEDULE.

A. IT IS ON THE SCHEDULE. I THINK THE SECRETARY WILL BE
OVER AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON WHEN MRS. MEIR MEETS
THE PRESIDENT. AND THE SECRETARY IS GIVING A DINNER FOR
GOLDA MEIR THIS EVENING. BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE
IS A MEETING PLANNED HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT. BUT HE WILL
ATTEND THE MEETING IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHO ARE THE PRINCIPAL GUESTS AT THE
DINNER TONIGHT?

A. I CAN GET YOU A GUEST LIST.

Q. THANK YOU.
(WHEREUPON AT 12:55 P.M. THE BRIEFING WAS CONCLUDED.)

END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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KUWAIT

DHAHRAN
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TEHRAN
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